

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention is an apparatus and process for batch rectification or reaction with batch distillation. The apparatus is a rectifying column alone or mounted on a batch reactor. The rectifying column having a collector for the downflowing column liquid arranged to collect liquid flowing down the column and a valve arrangement to direct the flow selectively away from the column or to the column at a time when downflowing product is being removed from the column. The column is operated at total reflux until the product reaches a required purity then the liquid flow from the collector is directed away from the column and the product recovered.